

Appl. No. 10/607,645
Atty. Docket No. 6269RDC
Amdt. dated 11/10/2005
Reply to Office Action of 10/18/2005
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-22 remain in the application.

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to specify that the scrubbing layer comprises slits. Basis is at page 8, line 6, wherein is further disclosed that the slits facilitate the uptake of particulate matter (page 8, lines 11-12).

Claim 1 has been further amended to remove the redundant matter "in direct, etc." of b) in view of the self-same recitation in c).

As suggested by the Examiner, the term "absorbent capacity" has been inserted into Claim 4 and 11.

It is submitted that the foregoing amendments are fully supported, and entry is requested.

Claim Objections

It is submitted that the objections (Office Action page 2) have been fully met by the amendments of Claims 4 and 11. Withdrawal of the objections is requested.

Rejections Under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1, 7, 8, 14 and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over U.S. 5,090,832.

Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections under §102, to the extent they may apply to the claims as now amended.

Previous remarks and citations in support of patentability continue to apply, but will not be extensively repeated herein, for the sake of brevity.

Various differences in structural features between the pads herein and those of '832 have been discussed previously. The present claims further distinguish over '832 by reciting the slit element of the scrubbing layer. It is submitted that, since nothing in '832 teaches such element, the rejections under §102 should be withdrawn.

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Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 3-6 and 10-13 stand rejected over '832, for reasons of record at pages 4-5 of the Office Action.

Claims 15-21 stand rejected over '832 and the state of the art assertedly admitted in the specification, for reasons of record at page 5 of the Office Action

Claims 2 and 9 stand rejected over '832 in view of U.S. 3,629,047, for reasons of record at pages 5-6 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections under §103, to the extent they may apply to the claims as now amended.

As before, all previous arguments in support of patentability continue to apply.

As noted above and in the previous responsive amendment, nothing in '832 suggests the assembly of the elements of the pad herein. Certainly, nothing in '832 would suggest the presence of slits in a scrubbing layer that is in fluid communication with an absorbent layer, such that both fluids and particulates could pass therethrough into said absorbent layer (i.e., be entrapped within said pad).

Since this assembly of elements is not suggested in the cited '832 patent, it is submitted that the rejections of Claims 3-6 and 10-13 should be withdrawn.

Likewise, with respect to the rejections of Claims 15-21, the cited combination of '832 with the art neither teaches nor suggests all elements of Claims 15-21, since they relate back, ultimately, to Claim 1.

With respect to Claim 2 and 9, it is noted that '047 contemplates modifying mechanically the outer plies of the disclosed laminate. Creping and embossing are listed at column 2, lines 30-31. However, nothing therein suggests slits, in the manner of the present invention. Certainly, no purpose for having slits is in any way suggested. Accordingly, '047 adds nothing to '832, in this regard. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are therefore requested.

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In summary, since none of the cited documents, singly or in combination, teaches or suggest all elements of the presently-claimed invention, and since nothing therein would motivate one to modify their disclosures to arrive at said elements, withdrawal of all rejections is requested.

In light of the forgoing, early and favorable action in the case is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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